

MICHAEL STEPANIAN
Attorney at Law (CSBN 037712)
819 Eddy Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Telephone: (415) 771-6174
Facsimile: (415) 474-3748

RANDY SUE POLLOCK
Attorney at Law (CSBN 64493)
2831 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
Telephone: (510) 763-9967
Facsimile: (510) 272-0711

Attorneys for Defendant Shannon Blaylock

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHANNON BLAYLOCK, et al.,

Defendant

) No. CR 07-0454 PJH

) **DEFENDANT SHANNON BLAYLOCK'S**
) **RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES' OMNIBUS**
) **MOTION *IN LIMINE***

) Trial Date: September 15, 2008

) Pretrial Conference Date: August 27, 2008

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COMES NOW defendant Shannon Blaylock, and responds to the Government's motions *in limine* as follows:

I. RESPONSE

A. The Government Fails to Identify the Uncharged Conduct It Contends is Inextricable Intertwined Evidence or Rule 404(b) Evidence

The Government states that it intends to "offer evidence of defendants' activities in relation to the victim prior to her arrival in the Northern District of California" but does not identify these "activities" other than a vague reference to "actions [that] were all part of a continuing effort to prostitute the victim." This is not "proffered evidence" as the Government contends.

1 Defendant is not in a position to respond to whether the purported “evidence” the Government
2 seeks to introduce constitutes “inextricable intertwined evidence” or Rule 404(b) evidence. Defendant’s
3 own motion *in limine* to exclude or limit the introduction of evidence of other bad acts dutifully noted
4 that “the Government has not yet stated what its evidence regarding defendant’s prior bad acts will
5 consist of” and the Government’s motion *in limine* simply does nothing to remedy this problem.
6 Accordingly, defendant respectfully requests the Court require the Government to provide an offer of
7 proof of the purported “inextricable intertwined evidence” or Rule 404(b) evidence it intends to introduce
8 at trial before any such effort is made in order to avoid prejudice to the defendant.

9 **B. The Government Fails to Identify the Purported Hearsay Statements It Anticipates the**
10 **Defendant Will Seek to Introduce**

11 The Government seeks to “preclude the defense from making reference, in front of the jury, to
12 out-of-court statements made by the defendants, including all statements made by him/her to any
13 co-conspirator or to any other person at any time.” Defendant is unaware of any authority to support
14 a blanket prohibition against out-of-court statements made by the defendants and the Government cites
15 none. The Government does not provide one example of such a statement it seeks to exclude in its
16 motion. The Government wants every conceivable out-of-court statements made by the defendants
17 excluded before considering them.

18 Defendant submits that the legislature created the Rules of Evidence for good reason and that the
19 Court is in the best position to judge when an out-of-court statement made by the defendants is
20 admissible or not rather than granting such a broad prohibition. Some out-of-court statements made by
21 the defendants may fall into well-recognized exceptions to the hearsay rule and others may not constitute
22 hearsay at all. Defendant submits that it would be unwise to grant the Government’s request because it
23 would substantially risk denying the defendant due process, the right to confrontation and a fair trial.

24 **C. The Government Fails to Cite Any Authority to Support Its Unprecedented Demand for**
25 **a Preview of the Defense’s Cross-examination**

26 The Government request the Court to order “the defendants, their attorneys, and through their
27 attorneys, all witnesses called by them, that they . . . “confine their cross examination and other
28 impeachment of any witness to the limits set forth by law . . .” The Government’s request is highly
offensive to this counsel who has no intention to break the law.

1 Further, the Government demands that the defense “provide to the court and the government,
2 outside the presence of the jury, a proffer of their proposed impeachment of the victim and her
3 grandmother during cross examination prior to commencement of the cross examination.” The
4 Government provides no authority for such an unprecedented abuse of governmental power and is
5 unaware of any authority that exists. Certainly, FRE 103 does not support such an overbearing process
6 proposed by the Government.

7 Defendant submits that such heavy-handedness would likely violate his right to confrontation and
8 the right to effective counsel. The defense is well-aware of the Rules of Evidence and what is, and is not,
9 permissible while conducting zealous advocacy for his client. The Government’s request for a preview
10 of the defense’s cross examination techniques is both intrusive and unworkable without substantial risk
11 of invading counsel’s attorney-client and work product privileges.

12 **D. The Defense Does Not Intend to Introduce Evidence of Penalty or Collateral Consequences**

13 The defense is well-aware of the prohibition against reference to penalty or collateral
14 consequences and did not intend to introduce such evidence at trial.

15 **E. The Government Fails to Make a Sufficient Showing of the Foundation for Convictions
16 and the Probative Value to Defendant’s Character for Truthfulness**

17 Defendant addressed this issue in his own separately filed motion *in limine*. In that motion,
18 defendant requested the Court to require the Government to make an offer of proof outside the presence
19 of the jury as to the basis of the probative value of the charges listed on defendant’s “rap sheet” that
20 addresses his character for truthfulness. The Government’s motion *in limine* fails to accomplish this.
21 Accordingly, defendant reiterates the request.

22 Further, defendant reiterates his request that the Court require the Government to lay a proper
23 foundation with a certified copy of the actual conviction record rather than the mere “rap sheet” that it
24 produced in discovery before introducing any such evidence deemed to meet the dictates of Rule 609.

25 **II. CONCLUSION**

26 The Government’s motion *in limine* is bereft of specificity making it difficult, if not impossible,
27 for the defendant to provide a more detailed response. Further, some of the requests the Government
28 makes of this Court is abusive and will deny the defendant a fair trial. The Rules of Evidence provide
a sufficient basis for the Court to make proper rulings when specific evidentiary issues are confronted.

1 Blanket prohibitions against an entire source and form of statements is a recipe for reversible error.
2 Invading the province of the attorney-client and work product privileges by demanding a preview of
3 cross-examination the defense contemplates pursuing is both unprecedented and unworkable. Based
4 upon the foregoing, defendant respectfully requests the Court to deny the Government's motion *in limine*
5 without prejudice to further specificity and elucidation as evidence is presented at the trial.

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7 DATED: August 21, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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10 By /s/ Michael Stepanian
11 Michael Stepanian
12 Attorneys for Defendant
13 Shannon Blaylock
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